

I have great pleasure in bringing to Your Excellency's notice the admirable and gallant conduct of Mr Moric, Second Master, the other crew, and Ship's Company of the *Staunch*, in this action, under the double disadvantage of a very reduced complement and armament, with three Junks, each carrying a long 24-Pounder Gun amidships, and six Broadside Guns of smaller Calibre, besides several mounted guns.

Charles Ansell, Quarter Master, I also wish particularly to bring to your notice, for his assistance in pointing the Howitzers, and his gallant conduct throughout the engagement.

I enclose my List of Casualties and Defects.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

LEVESON WILDMAN,
Lieutenant and Commander.

Rear-Admiral SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief.

P.S.—I should have mentioned, that from the quantity of European Minies, Revolvers, Cartridges, and Rifles, and the desperate resistance made in keeping up a heavy fire, that Europeans must have been on board; the engagement having lasted 5 hours.

(Signed,) L. W.

True Copies,
H. F. HANCE.

No. 40.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, Knight, LL.D., Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, &c. &c., has directed the publication, for general information, of the following Copy of a Despatch from His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, with Extracts from enclosures reporting the most successful results of an Expedition under the Command of Captain VANSITTART, of H.M.'s Steam-frigate *Magicienne*, against a large Piratical Fleet which has long interrupted the trade on the West Coast of China.

By Order,

G. W. CAINE.

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 7th September, 1858.

No. 17.

Calcutta, AT HONGKONG, 6th September, 1858,

SIR,—In my despatch No. 14, of the 25th ultimo, I informed your Excellency of my intention to send out a Squadron to attempt the destruction of the hordes of Pirates which have for some time past paralyzed the Chinese Coasting Trade to the Westward. The accompanying Despatch from Captain N. Vansittart of Her Majesty's Ship *Magicienne*, will shew your Excellency how eminently successful the Expedition has been, having destroyed no less than 100 Junks and Fast-Boats, besides burning Coulan, the headquarters of the Pirates, and being in a great measure to the presence and energy of Mr Caldwell, the Registrar General, whose services have on this occasion, as heretofore, been most valuable.

The Squadron has now gone to the Eastward, to clear the Coast in that direction.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

M. SEYMOUR,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Hongkong.

No. 6.

LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS.

H.M.'s SHIP *Magicienne*, OFF LINTING ISLAND, 4th September, 1858,

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you, that in obedience to your orders for me to take under my directions H.M.'s Ships *Inflexible*, *Plover*, *Algerine*, and proceed with them to destroy and capture the many Pirates represented as being in this neighbourhood, that I left the anchorage of Hongkong with the said vessels and H.M.'s Ship under my Command on the morning of the 26th ultimo, as soon as Mr Caldwell, the Registrar General, and three Chinese informers had come on board.

From Hongkong we proceeded and examined carefully the whole Coast as far Westward as Mamee, having up to the present date destroyed—1 fortified Stockade mounting 14 Guns, 26 piratical fighting Junks, 74 fast Row-boats, 236 Guns, about 372 Pirates and 36 pirates taken alive, 6 Cargo Vessels recaptured from pirates, 54 Men and 6 Women retaken from pirates; with only a few wounded on our side.

I enclose herewith a detailed account of each day's proceedings, with list of captures, people rescued, casualties, officers employed in the Expedition, &c. I cannot say too much for the valuable assistance I have received from Mr Caldwell, the Registrar General, who was most intelligent in his exertions, gaining much valuable information from the Prisoners rescued, and by other means, thereby being in a great measure the cause of our success, and showed much judgment in discriminating the innocent from the guilty of those captured on board the ships, besides being a valuable acquisition from his intimate knowledge of the Chinese language.

I have despatched the *Algerine* into Hongkong with Mr Caldwell, the three Chinese informers, and the remainder of the persons rescued from the Pirates not yet disposed of. Upon the *Algerine's* return with Mr Caldwell, I propose searching well the Bays in the neighbourhood of Hongkong to the Eastward, as we have every reason to believe that there is still one fleet of Junks undiscovered.

The energy of Mr Caldwell in finding out and gaining information as to where the Pirates are, does him the very greatest credit.

Trusting you will approve of my proceedings since leaving Hongkong on the 26th ultimo,

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

NICHOLAS VANSITTART,
Captain.

Rear-Admiral SIR M. SEYMOUR, K.C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c., &c.

Detailed Account of the Proceedings of H. M. Ships "*Magicienne*," "*Inflexible*," "*Plover*," and "*Algerine*,"
when upon a Cruise for the Suppression of Piracy.

1858, 26th August.—Leaving the anchorage at Hongkong at 6.30 A.M., we proceeded, and carefully examined Pootoy, the Lema, Sammoon, Lingting and Chungchow; sending the *Inflexible* and *Algerine* to the Westward of Lingting, the *Magicienne* with the *Plover* going to the Eastward, we came upon two piratical fighting junks and one fast-boat. One of the junks having her anchor up, made for the shore, the Crew taking to their boats. I immediately despatched the *Plover*, directing Lieutenant Wynniatt to bring her out, which he did, and was fortunate in recapturing Chas. Deacon, an Englishman (belonging to the American ship *Antelope*) who had been taken by the Pirates three weeks before, in company with the Mate and eight Chinese; the former and four of the latter he saw cut down and thrown aboard at the time of being captured. The second junk was at anchor, which the Pirates had abandoned and laid a train to, but she was blown up before the *Plover's* boat reached her. Being informed that there were about 120 pirates on the island, who had taken to the hills and rocks, I despatched Lieutenant Soady, 1st Lieutenant of this ship, and Lieutenant Tuson, R.M.A., with a strong party of men, to cut off any Pirates; but found here as elsewhere that it was useless following them, so shot at the different parties as they showed themselves. The junk blown up being nearly awash, I directed Lieutenant Soady to recover as many of the guns on board her as he could, and to bring them out into deep water; which by nine the next morning he completed, bringing out with those on board the captured junk, 50 guns of from 6, 9, 12, and 18-pors, all of which were taken into deep water and junks destroyed. Ashore, much powder and ammunition was found, all of which was destroyed.

27th August.—In the morning before leaving Lingting, a Chinese who had been taken by the pirates some days before, came on board of our boats;—his description of the atrocities committed by the Pirates was dreadful to hear. Mr Caldwell the Registrar General, Coulan Bay, a stronghold and favorite resort of the Pirates, we proceeded by the *Ladron* Islands to Tylon, and anchored the *Magicienne* and *Inflexible* at 5 P.M. on the south side in 4 fathoms water. I immediately proceeded in the *Plover* with all the Boats of the *Magicienne* armed, under Lieutenant Soady, and the boats of the *Inflexible* in tow of the *Algerine*, under Commander Brooker; landing the *Magicienne* under Lieutenant Tison, R.M.A., with pinnace in charge of Lieutenant Hill, on the south side. Upon our opening Coulan Bay, we discovered a squadron of five piratical fighting Junks, with two captured cargo vessels. Upon our nearing them, they fired one gun, and ran their vessels aground, the crews jumping overboard and swimming ashore. The fire of the *Plover*, *Algerine*, and rocket-boats was admirable. Anchoring our Gun-boats in position at sun-set, we took possession of the Pirate Junks mounting in all 62 Guns, the two cargo Junks being one laden with cocoa-nuts and the other with rice. We had to destroy the Cocoa-nut vessel (being on the rocks), but liberated the Rice Junk, putting on board of her the people found in the former, the united crews amounting to 24 men. At 10 P.M. I started with *Magicienne's* and *Inflexible's* first gigs, accompanied by Commander Brooker, Lieutenants Soady and Wynniatt, on a reconnoitering expedition. Up the Creek we discovered and set fire to four Piratical fighting Junks, one of 12 guns, the others having had their guns removed; whilst destroying the Junks and some smaller vessels, occasional musket-shots were fired at us, which we returned. As we were burning the third Junk, the guns opened on us, at about 1,700 yards from inland, many of the shot reaching alongside the gigs at that distance. Favored by the moon (occasionally obscured), I determined to land; so with Commander Brooker, Lieutenants Soady and Wynniatt, and ten men, we pushed on as well as we could find our way guided by the spirited fire of the guns at the stockade, which continued until we got within pistol-shot, upon which time we had reserved our fire. Giving a volley, we pushed on; the enemy ran, ourselves being brought up for a minute or so by the entrance of the stockade being staked; clambering through mud, water, and over embankment, we got possession of the 14-Gun stockade, spiked the guns, destroyed the ammunition, fired volleys where at times we heard the enemy, and returned on board by 2 A.M. with no loss on our side. Although the shot came over our heads, the Pirates appeared to be firing at where the vessels were burning in the Creek, and it is to be aware of our movements ashore, nor the smallness of our force, until we were close upon them. For, having to advance in single file in a narrow pathway, several of the guns being placed so as to completely sweep away every thing approaching, we would have required considerable force to have attacked it in the day time, and I have little doubt that we should have sustained some loss. The guns were similar to those in the Piratical fighting Junks.

28th August.—Lieutenants Sharpe and Bevan were employed getting the guns out of the Junks captured in Coulan Bay into deep water, and then setting the vessels on fire. Landing a large party under Commander Brooker, Lieutenant Soady, and Acting Mr Brabazon, I had 30 piratical fast-boats destroyed, and marched up to the stockade to destroy the guns more effectually and burn the houses in the vicinity; the same having been effected, all hands re-embarked and proceeded down to the ships, weighed and steamed down on the South side, to Sandy Bay, St John's Island, Mr Caldwell going down on the North side, with *Plover* and *Algerine*, where all re-anchored by dark.

29th August.—At daylight having despatched the *Plover* and *Algerine* to search Samtong Bay, I proceeded with Mr Caldwell and Commander Brooker, in *Magicienne's* and *Inflexible's* 1st gigs, to search the small rocks and coves in Sandy Bay, St John's Island. At the extreme end of one of the bays we came suddenly upon a piratical Junk of 10 guns, all on one broadside, and 38 men all at their guns pointed for the entrance between the rocks. As he evidently intended disputing our entrance, and it would be impossible to board him on account of his being high and dry on the mud, I had the gig's crews landed on the rocks with their rifles. Upon our opening fire the Pirates immediately fled, many being killed;—on board we found two women, who had been prisoners for upwards of two months, whom we liberated. In the forenoon, seeing some junks to the Westward, I despatched Commander Brooker in the *Inflexible* with the Boats of the *Magicienne* under Lieutenant Soady to examine them, remaining at anchor in *Magicienne* to superintend getting the Pirate Junk out; where we were at anchor off Hawchem Bluff. The *Plover* and *Algerine* came upon six Piratical Junks, upon which they made a spirited attack, doing much credit to Lieutenants Wynniatt and Arthur; after an exchange of shot for several minutes, the Pirates jumped overboard upwards of 100 being killed or drowned, 30 taken alive, 22 people rescued, and 80 guns destroyed; the *Inflexible* with *Magicienne's* boats coming in very opportunely to prevent any escape, and to give a finishing stroke to an affair so ably executed by Lieutenant Wynniatt. For the particulars I must refer you to the letter written by Lieutenant Wynniatt, enclosed herewith.

30th August.—At 4 P.M. hearing a gun fired from the Northward, I had the *Plover* ready with the *Magicienne's* Cutter under Lieutenant Soady, and *Inflexible's* Cutter under Lieutenant Bevan, and started at daybreak, with Mr Caldwell and Commander Brooker after four vessels for the land.

Upon our getting within gunshot, the crews of the two larger junks took to their boats and made for the shore, ourselves opening fire with musketry and great guns, destroying the greater part of them.

The vessels turned out to be one Pirate Junk mounting 5 guns, on board of which we found a Chinese woman, who had been made a prisoner with 7 men, some days before, near Macao; her vessel, the second large one, having been kept by the Pirates to form one of their squadron. The remaining two were fishing vessels, one with five men, the other with four on board, whom we liberated. The other two vessels I had taken into deep water, set fire to, and guns thrown overboard. The woman I had sent to the *Magicienne*.

Weighing with the ships at 8 P.M. we proceeded to Wong Chow, where leaving the *Magicienne* and *Inflexible* at anchor, I proceeded at 1 P.M. with Mr Caldwell in the *Plover*, taking in tow all the *Magicienne's* Boats under Lieut. Soady, Commander Brooker going in the *Algerine* with *Inflexible's* Boats. Proceeding up for Tywoo shan, at 3 P.M., we discovered two Junks; and on giving chase, one lowered his sails and anchored, turning out to be our old friend the Rice junk, who had been again captured by another Pirate (the vessel ahead), who was sailing away with a good breeze, and pulling with all her oars to escape up to the Fort of Tywoo-shan. As soon as we came up within range, we opened fire, the Chinese villagers on shore following her up, so as to slaughter any one attempting to escape by swimming from her. At 4.10 P.M., the Pirate opened fire upon us, and continued so doing until she was taken. The *Plover* having got within canister distance did great execution, as did the *Algerine* and all the boats. Pushing off in the boats at 4.40, the Pirate still sailing and pulling, gave us a hot chase; my gig being light, consequently got within pistol-shot distance before the other boats could come up. I cannot speak too highly of Mr Brabazon, Acting Mate, and Mr S. G. Anstruther, Midshipman, who came with me, or of the whole Boat's Crew, as, out of nine men, eight were wounded by the Pirates; Mr Brabazon with the two Marines keeping up a most effective fire with their rifles; Mr Anstruther most gallantly jumped overboard after T. Mill's, Ordinary, one of the gig's crew, who in consequence of a stinkpot having exploded upon him, had to jump overboard to save himself, but being unable to swim, was fast sinking, when Mr Anstruther rescued him; Mr Anstruther's strength was also exhausted when assistance came to him. At 5.30 P.M., the boats having come within canister distance, as well as the *Plover* and *Algerine*, the Pirate grounded in a sinking state; those on board of her not killed jumped overboard, the few escaping us being immediately slaughtered by the villagers ashore.

One Chinese, who had been taken prisoner by the Pirates and rescued by us, informed us that this junk was commanded by the Pirate Chief Cheppoo, who was killed shortly before the vessel grounded; also that she mounted 9 guns, having a crew of upwards of 65 men, not one of whom escaped. The coolness displayed throughout the expedition since leaving Hongkong by all on board, the accuracy of the fire from the *Plover* and *Algerine*, also from the boats of *Magicienne* and *Inflexible*, do great credit to all on board; and I take this opportunity of recommending to your favourable notice, as I have done in my covering letter, particularly Comr. Brooker, Lieut. J. C. Soady, Lieut. Wynniatt, Lieut. Arthur, Lieut. Bevan, Acting Mate Brabazon, Midshipman Anstruther. The conducting of the *Plover* and *Algerine* through such intricate channels reflects the greatest credit to Mr Jao. Phillips, Acting second Master, and Mr H. Swainson, second Master.

I enclose herewith a list of casualties, in which I am happy to say are none killed.

31st August.—Searching the various creeks, we found two junks with no guns on board, but as they answered the description given by Mr Caldwell, I had them destroyed, meeting with no resistance with the exception of one gingall shot. Before high water, I had the *Plover* and *Algerine* placed in position before the battery of Tywoo-shan, in which were two heavy long guns besides smaller ones; sending a boat under Lieut. Soady, to set fire to a large junk, which had been used as a Pirate, but whose guns had been removed, our firing of the previous day giving them timely warning. We remained opposed to the battery until the vessel was burnt to the water's edge; however as no shot was fired, I did not feel myself authorized in acting in any way against it, although it is well understood that the Hakka tribe, living there always give protection openly to the Pirates, the Mandarins never yet having been able to take the place, although they have tried with a large force, the Hakka tribe being in open rebellion against them. There being nothing more to complete the destruction of, I returned with the vessels and boats to where the *Magicienne* and *Inflexible* were at anchor.

1st September.—Proceeded with Gun-Boats in tow to Mamee, when sending for the Mandarin, I handed over to him 22 Pirates for his disposal.

2d September.—Proceeded to St John's Island, searching the nooks and corners, finding nothing.

3d September.—Proceeded at 4 A.M. for Tylon Island, where, at 11 A.M. anchoring the *Magicienne* and *Inflexible* on the south side, I started with Comr. Brooker and Mr Caldwell in *Plover* and *Algerine* with ships' boats to Coulan Bay. Finding I had been too lenient on the former occasion of visiting this place, in sparing the houses and many boats, as the accounts given by prisoners taken from Pirates, and from all parties enquired of, agreed that every person and article thereat were piratical, and had been for some years, also from Mr Caldwell's previous knowledge; and as the Mandarin authorities had long since denounced it as such,—I desired commander Brooker to land with his division of boats and with those under Lieut. Soady, to search well the different lots of houses about the creek, to burn and destroy everything that he could find; which he most ably executed, having only a few gingall shot fired at his party, which was returned, without any loss on our side, the Pirates having 4 or 5 killed. The houses were nothing more than magazines of powder and ammunition, explosions after explosions taking place. Seven more guns were discovered and destroyed, cargoes of Betel-nut and other pirated stores set fire to, as were also two

piratical Fighting Junks with guns removed, 1 Cargo Junk, and about 40 Boats nearly all Fast-boats. With the *Plover* I started in chase of Fast-boat pulling sixteen Oars, which we did not get possession of until after the crew had got ashore. She was well armed and provisioned, mounted a 6 por. in the stern. Two other Piratical Fast-boats were likewise discovered and set fire to. The destruction of their favorite stronghold with loss of powder and Ammunition will I trust prevent the Pirates fitting out any vessels of consequence for Piratical purposes for some time.

4th September.—Proceeded by Kypong Islands, Sammoon and Ling-ting, where we now are.

(Signed,)

NICHOLAS VANSITTART,
Captain.

H.M.S. "Magicienne," off Lingting Island, 4th September, 1858.

H.M.S. "Magicienne," } Return of Piratical War Junks, &c., captured by H.M.'s Ships "Magicienne," "Inflexible," "Plover,"
off Lingting Island, } and "Algerine," on the undermentioned dates, with the number of Cargo Junks and Prisoners retaken
4th September, 1858. } from the Pirates, and Casualties in the crews of H.M.'s Ships.

DATE.	PLACE.	CAPTURED OR DESTROYED.					RECAPTURED FROM PIRATES.			CASUALTIES AMONGST THE OFFICERS & MEN OF H.M.'S SHIPS.		REMARKS.
		Piratical War Junks destroyed and burnt.	Piratical Fast Boats destroyed.	Total No. of Guns spiked or sunk into Deep Water.	Pirates Captured alive.	Supposed No. of Pirates killed.	No. of Cargo Junks released.	Men.	Women.	Ship.	No.	
1858 Aug. 28	Lingting Islands,	2	1	50	...	25	...	2	...	...	...	Under the Pirate Chief Momema. Upwards of 120 Pirates on this Island. One of the re-captured prisoners was an English Seaman called Chas. Deacon, late of the Merchant Ship <i>Antelope</i> .
27 28	Coulan Bay,.....	9	30	74	...	50	1 burnt	24	...	<i>Magicienne</i> <i>Algerine</i>	1 1	Under the Pirate Chief Kowkung-hung. The crews of the Piratical War Junks escaped to shore; many killed. An armed stockade of 14 guns was captured and destroyed by a night attack.
29	St John's Island,	1	...	10	...	26	...	...	2	...	...	Under the Pirate Chief Lowcumfat. 38 men on board, nearly all killed.
...	Off Hawcheun Bluff,	6	...	80	36	190	...	19	3	...	...	Under the Pirate Chief Yaongkong-poo. Prisoners handed over to Mandarin Authorities.
30	St John's,.....	2	...	5	...	12	2	9	1	...	...	Under the Pirate Chief Tunghai.
...	Teywoo-shan,.....	1	...	9	...	65	...	...	...	<i>Magicienne</i> <i>Inflexible</i> <i>Plover</i> <i>Algerine</i>	8 2 1 1	Under the Pirate Chief Cheepoo, who was killed in the affair. This vessel offered resistance for upwards of an hour, wounding with stinkpots, gingalls, &c., 8 of the 9 men in <i>Magicienne's</i> Captain's Gig.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	*24	...	...	...	Recaptured—the same liberated at Coulan.
31	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Guns removed—Pirates warned by the fight of the previous evening.
Sept 4	Coulan,	2	43	8	...	4	1 burnt	...	...	...	...
	Totals,.....	26	74	236	36	372	6	78	6	...	14	

24 re-captured a second time.

54

(Signed,)

NICHOLAS VANSITTART,
Captain.

H.M.'s GUN-BOAT *Plover*, SANDY BAY, 29th Aug.

SIR,—I have the honour to acquaint you, that in obedience to your orders, I proceeded with the *Plover* and *Algerine* to Samtung Bay where nothing was met with beyond a few fishing and trading boats, but from whom I gained information of pirates having been there on the previous evening, but had left during the night in the direction of Gunjavar Channel; upon which I considered I should not be departing from my instructions in following them up, which I did, searching the whole of the western shore of Hawcheun Island, without seeing anything suspicious until we arrived at Hawcheun Bluff, when we suddenly opened six piratical Junks standing in line towards the shore, which from their appearance as to tonnage and cut of sails, quite agreed with the information we had received at Samtung. As we approached within gun shot, fire was opened immediately on both sides, Lieutenant Arthur in the *Algerine* taking the right extreme of the line, while the *Plover* took the left, to prevent their reaching the shore, firing continually on both sides for many minutes, when the men jumped overboard from the Junks and made for the shore, a few escaping in their small boats, leaving us in possession of the Junks, which were as speedily as possible ashored, guns thrown overboard, and set fire to, in which we were very much assisted by the joining of the *Inflexible* and *Magicienne's* boats under Lieutenant Soady, as every assistance was given by Commander Brooker in destroying the Junks, which being completed in obedience to instructions from Commander Brooker I proceeded with the *Algerine*, to examine Namoa Harbour and the channel leading between the Islands of Hawcheun, Wasp, Cricket, and Dipachou, when I rejoined the *Magicienne*. I am happy to say that the captures were effected without a single man being wounded on our side, though the fire at times was heavy. As far as I am able to learn, upwards of eighty guns were destroyed.

In conclusion I beg to bring to your notice, the very cordial co-operation I received from Lieutenant Arthur in the *Algerine*, and the quick and accurate fire kept up by the Gun-boats reflects the highest credit on both men and officers. I further think it my duty to bring to your notice Mr John Phillips, Second Master of the *Plover*, who conducted the vessels through most intricate channels in a manner which showed great judgment and ability. The Interpreter sent by Mr Caldwell, Registrar General, proved of great value in obtaining information and making himself generally useful.

Hoping that our proceedings will meet with your approval,

I have, &c., &c.,

(Signed,)

ROBERT WYNNIATT,
Lieutenant Commanding.

To Captain N. VANSITTART, C.B.,
H.M.'s Ship *Magicienne*.

True Copies,

H. F. HANCE.